

## "THE GHOST OF HAUNTED HILL"









PEBBLES & BAMM BAMM Vol. 2, No. 16, October, 1973,

published every six weeks by Charlton Publications, Inc., at Charlton Building, Division St., Derby, Conn. 06418. 20¢ per copy. Subscription \$1.60 annually. Printed in U.S.A. Geo. Wildman, Managing Editor. The stories, characters and incidents portrayed in this periodical are entirely fictitious, and no identification with actual persons, living or dead, is intended. This magazine has been produced and sold subject to the restrictions that it shall only be resold at retail as published and at full cover price. It is a violation of these stipulations for this magazine to be offered for sale by any vendor in a mutilated condition, or at less than full cover price. National Advertising Representatives: Dilo, 114 E. 32nd St., New York. N.Y. 10016 (212-686-9050). © 1973, HANNA-BARBERA PRODUCTIONS, INC. International copyright secured. All rights reserved.





























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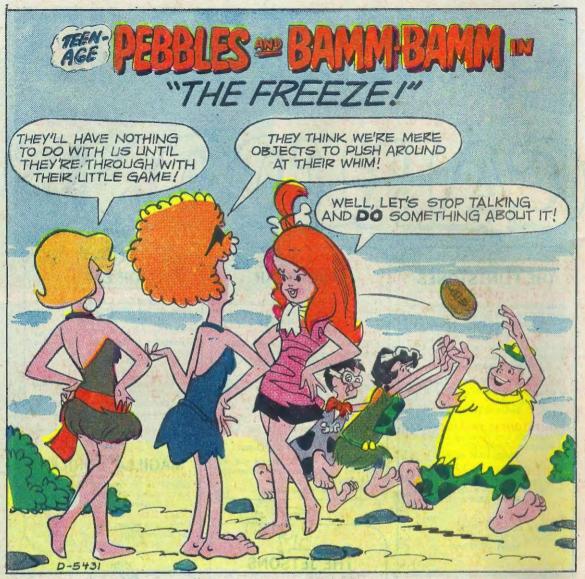




























































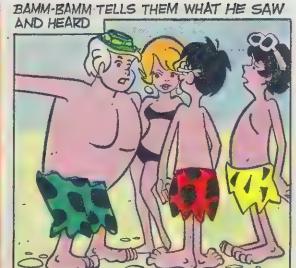
















ARMED WITH A BICYCLE PUMP AND A LONG HOSE THEY RETURN TO THE

























My first appointment as a teacher was to P.S. 45. Which was located on the east side of our city. I was young, full of energy, and enthusiasm. I wanted to be a good teacher. I taught there for five years and then went to a Junior High School. That was a promotion for me. Only trouble with teaching is that you come up against a lot of situations which could be bewildering to you. You were never taught about their existence or how to handle them by the Professors in the Education Courses.

It took me some time to learn that kids were not miniature adults. A kid thinks in his own way. True, at times he may come to a very startling and unusual conclusion. And the answer you get may be a first in new ideas. I asked the question:

"What family claims the whole?" and when I didn't get a hand up, I changed it slightly. "To what family does the whale belong?"

What I wanted was the answer: "Mammal." I wanted to show my students that the whale was not a "fish". It did not extract oxygen from the water. It had lungs and did breathing just like we did.

Peter raised his hand rather slowly. As though he wasn't sure of his answer. These are his words.

"Teacher, I don't know any family where we live that has a whale. It doesn't belong to any family on our block. Maybe to a family on another block. But not where we live."

That lesson went down the drain pipe of life. On Monday the principal told me the news: "You will take your class to the Art Museum on Tuesday. Each student is to carry lunch. They will be excused from all other classes. This is part of our new program of cultural enrichment. All I can say is that I survived the ordeal. The impossible things that happened I won't forget for a long time. Esther stopped to look at the painting, "Storm in the North Sea" by Jacques Duval. Suddenly she started to drop her head low.

"I'm getting seasick," she screamed. "Help me

The female attendant took care of her in the office. We had to call her mother up to come to the museum to get her. Then Michael stopped in front of the painting, "Death of the Martyrs" by Ludwig Schneller. This

shows the brave early people being tied to stakes in the roman arena. Then you see the lions ready to kill or eat them. Michael was absolutely spellbound by that picture. Then I saw him start to count with his finger.

"Hey, teacher," he half shouted. "There's one lion there that will go hungry. Got nobody to eat."

"The Setting Sun" by Wilfred Allison puzzled some of my students, and Donald told me the situation:

"You mean a guy just paints a fried egg and its hung up here? What gives? Maybe you get hungry by just looking at it. But since when is a fried egg a hunk of art?"

Some of my girls came to me. One took me by my hand and they conducted me to a figure of a woman in armor on horseback. It was Jeanne d'Arc on horseback. And she was definitely wearing a page boy haircut.

"I want a haircut like that," said Francine. "And I will bring my mother here, What's good enough for Jeanne d'Arc must be good enough for me." Like that kind of young female's logic?

Jimmy either mislaid his lunch or lost it. He was about to cry when Matilda came over to him.

"I have an extra sandwich and some cookies with my lunch. So you can eat with me."

And how did he thank her? I wouldn't have believed it had I not heard it with my two ears:

"I can never forget how you saved me from starvation. Those were some cookies, I liked them very much. After I serve in the army because of the draft I shall come back to you. Meanwhile tell your mother I like her cookies so very much, and I thank her."

I should have had enough sense to keep them out of the room dedicated to modern art-madernistic and futuristic paintings.

"When I make blobs of paint on a paper I get scolded," said Henry. "But this guy gets away with it. They hang up his mess on the wall. Ain't fair, I tell you."

"How do you look at that picture?" Jonnie wanted to know, "Do I have to stand on my head?"

Believe me I was glad when time came to take them home. It was very successful. I returned with all students except the girl that got seasick.























